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Stennis Says Cuba Still a Threat

By the Associated Press

Washington

Sen. John Stennis (D) of Mississippi says secret testimony about the Soviet force in Cuba has convinced him there has been no lessening of the military threat since offensive missiles and bombers were removed.

Senator Stennis, chairman of the Senate preparedness subcommittee which is making a study of the whole situation centering on the Communist-dominated island, spoke against the background of Wednesday's televised report on Cuba by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and intelligence experts.

But he told newsmen he had not had time to watch all of that unusual showing and tied his remarks more to his own inquiry. He said his study will go right ahead, unaffected by the Pentagon accounting.

No Lessening of Threat Seen

The Senate group had just finished a second closed session with John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Senator Stennis said the next witnesses probably will be military leaders.

Since the reported removal of the long-range missiles and bombers from Cuba, Senator Stennis said, "I don't see any lessening of the military threat."

He said there is no evidence of continued withdrawal since about 5,000 technicians went home with the missiles and bombers. He said his group wants to know "just why they [the Soviets] are continuing

this unusual military threat." More or less in line with Senator Stennis's view, Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen (R) of Illinois, Senate Minority Leader, said the one impression he got from the Pentagon showing was "that Cuba is a Soviet base from which they will continue to operate" for penetration of Latin America.

Experts' Discounted

At the other end of the range of congressional reaction was this comment from Rep. John S. Monagan (D) of Connecticut, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, prepared for a broadcast:

"Everyone is an expert on Cuba, and strangely the ones who have never been there, and particularly those who are at the greatest distance from Cuba, are the greatest experts..."

"The resolution of this delicate situation, in an age of thermonuclear bombs, is not being advanced by reckless and irresponsible statements."